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Snowshoe Rabbit Thwarts
Forest Planting in Minnesota

St. Paul, Minn.

The picturesquely-named "snowshoe rabbit" is not a favorite among foresters in northern Minnesota, although it is protected by State law in that part of the country, according to forestry officials of the United States Department of Agriculture.

"The snowshoe rabbit is the one principal factor in the loss of a considerable number of planted trees in the forest plantations of northern Minnesota," states Director Raphael Zon, of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station at St. Paul. "The abundance of the rabbits this year and the damage they are doing are evident to the most casual observer who visits the cut-over areas of the region, where both State and Federal authorities are endeavoring to make denuded forest land again productive through extensive planting of young pine

seedlings.

"Not only are the tips and needles of planted trees eaten by the rodents, but much of the natural young growth of pines, spruce, aspen, maple, etc., is cut back and defoliated, or barked near the base if the trees are over three feet high. Of the three principal species planted, white pine, Norway pine, and white spruce, the damage is heaviest in the white pine and least in the spruce. All three, however, are so heavily damaged as to cause death in the case of any of the trees whose tips can be reached above the surface of the snow by the rabbits."

In giving examples of recent damage to support this statement, Director Zon declares that as much as 79 per cent of the trees in one plantation were eaten off by the rabbits, 43 per cent fatally. In another instance practically the whole of a plantation of white pine on the J. Cooke State Park was destroyed by the rabbits. Control measures recommended are removal of the closed hunting seasons that at present protect the rabbits nine months in the year and systematic destruction of the rabbits in the vicinity of plantations until present plantations are out of danger, a matter of 10 to 15 years.

New Appointments in
Forest Service

Washington, D. C.-- Announcement. has just been made by the United States Department of Agriculture of several new appointments to field positions in the Research Branch of the Forest Service. These are Mr. R. E. McArdle of Norfolk, Virginia, to the new Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station; Mr. George B. Shivery of Pennsylvania, to the Southern Forest Experiment Station, at New Orleans, La.; Mr. E. E. Probstfield of Minnesota, to the Cloquet (Minn.) Forest Experiment Station; and Mr. Lester H. Reineke of